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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/821,859	04/12/2004	Deuk-hwan Chang	45868	1819

1609 7590 05/16/2006

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WASHINGTON,, DC 20036

EXAMINER

JOERGER, KAITLIN S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3653

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/821,859

Applicant(s)

CHANG, DEUK-HWAN

Examiner

Kaitlin S. Joerger

Art Unit

3653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/19/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hamanaka et al. (US Patent 5,088,717).

Hamanaka et al. teaches an apparatus for separating and feeding printing paper sheets from a paper tray, the apparatus comprising:

- one single separating/transferring roller, 230, for sucking a paper sheet from the paper stack on the paper tray and delivering the paper sheet to a scanning unit, 110;
- the separating/transferring roller is spaced that its upper surface does not have an effect on the back of the lowermost paper sheet in the paper tray and the lower surface faces and upper window of the scanning unit, see figure 13;
- a paper guiding part formed in a shape that corresponds to a shape of an outer periphery of the separating/transferring rollers, for guiding the paper sheet delivered by the separating/transferring roller, see figure 13;
- the separating/transferring has nozzle parts, 231A, formed on an outer periphery for sucking the paper sheet, and a vacuum pump for providing absorption force to the nozzle part;

Art Unit: 3653

- the apparatus further comprises a paper perception sensor unit, 207, a scanning sensor unit, 264, and a controlling unit for controlling the operation of the vacuum pump;
- the nozzles parts are formed in a straight line, wherein there are two parallel straight lines, in an axial direction of the roller, see figure 3;
- the separating/transferring roller has a frictional part on its outer peripheral surface except in the vicinity of the nozzle part so that increased frictional force is exerted on the delivered paper sheet, see column 9, lines 6+ and figure 3;
- the control unit operates the vacuum pump if a scanning command of a user is input after the paper perception unit is turned on, see item (3)-(7) in columns 11 and 12;
- the controlling unit stops operations of the vacuum pump if the scanning unit sensor is turned on by a front end of the sheet, and operates the vacuum pump again if a rear end of the delivered sheet passes by the scanning sensor unit, see items (10) through (12) in column 12 and 13;
- the vacuum pump is turned off if the paper perception unit and scanning sensor unit are all turned off.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 04323137

A.

The JP '137 patent teaches an apparatus for separating and feeding sheets from a tray, comprising:

- a separating/transferring roller, 1, for sucking a paper sheet from the stack on the paper tray and delivering the sheet to a scanning unit


Art Unit: 3653

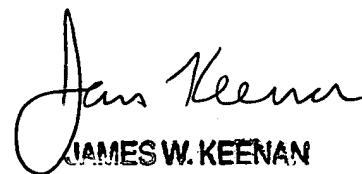
- a rubber pad, 6, installed in the proximity of the front end of the paper tray, for facilitating the separation of the paper sheet.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kaitlin S. Joerger whose telephone number is 571-272-6938. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen Lillis can be reached on 571-272-6928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ksj

11 May 2006


JAMES W. KEENAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER